

A N N U A L   R E P O R T  
OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To The

RURAL DISTRICT OF NORTE COTSWOLD

FOR THE YEAR 1946

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

Stephen Knight, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

A.Ede,      Certified Sanitary Inspector.  
              Certified Meats and Food Inspector.  
              Sanitary Science Certificate.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors:

E.A.Panks,      Certified Sanitary Inspector.

B. McCutcheon, Certified Sanitary Inspector.  
(appointed September 1946)

To the Chairman and Members of

THE NORTE COTSWOLD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the District for the year 1946.

Schemes prepared before the end of the war for improvement of water supplies and sewerage have been mostly held up by post war difficulties in the supply of materials and labour. In spite of these difficulties progress has been made in the provision of houses; 23 temporary houses and 18 permanent houses were completed and a further 56 houses in course of erection at the end of year.

The vital statistics for the year reflect the healthy state and well being of the community. Comment on the various items appears in the body of the report which includes that of your Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. A. Ede.

I have the honour to be, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

STEPHEN KNIGHT.

July 1947.

# STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	86,218
Registrar-General's estimate of -	
Resident population - mid 1946	17,100
Number of Inhabited houses (end of 1946) according to Rate Books.	5,264
Rateable Value 31st December 1946	£91,738
Sum represented by a penny rate	£357. 0. 0.

## SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The people of the District are engaged for the most part in agriculture, market gardening, fruit growing and associated occupations.

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>
Legitimate	315	153	162
Illegitimate	23	12	11
Total	338	165	173

Birth Rate per 1000 of the population ..... 19.8

## STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate	8	6	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Still Birth Rate per 1000 of the population ..... 0.5

<u>DEATHS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>
	243	113	130

Death Rate per 1000 of the population ..... 14.2

## DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES

	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births</u>
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis	NIL	NIL
No. 30 Other maternal causes	NIL	NIL

## DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE (Infantile Death Rate)

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>MALE</u>	<u>FEMALE</u>
Legitimate	10	2	8
Illegitimate	2	-	2
Total	12	2	10

ALL INFANTS per 1000 Live Births ..... 35



## DEATHS from Cancer

	48
	(2.8 per 1000 of the population)
" Measles	Nil
" Whooping Cough	Nil
" Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	1
" Tuberculosis (all forms)	4
	(0.2 per 1000 of the population)

## POPULATION

The Registrar General's estimate of the population - 17,100 shows a slight increase for the year.

## BIRTH RATE

The Birth Rate 19.8 is a little under that for last year and is practically identical with the rate for the country as a whole.

## DEATH RATE

The Death Rate 14.2 is somewhat above the rate of 11.5 for the whole country and is due to a larger proportion of elderly people in this District.

## INFANT MORTALITY

Twelve of the 338 children born during the year died before reaching their first birthday giving an infantile mortality rate of 35 per 1000 live births as against a national rate of 43. The infantile mortality rate is a delicate index of the well being of a community. A low rate is therefore welcome and has been enjoyed by this district over a number of years.

## MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were no maternal deaths during the year.

The principal causes of death were:-

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Typhoid and Para. Fevers	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-
Tuberculosis - Respiratory System	1	2
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	-
Syphilitic Diseases	1	1
Influenza	-	-
Measles	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis &c.	-	-
Polio-Encephalitis	-	-
Acute Infect. Encëphalitis	-	-
(Bucc. Cav.)	-	-
Cancer (Oesophagus (M))	-	3
(Uterus (F))	-	-
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	3	3
Cancer of Breast	-	7
Cancer of other Sites	16	16
Carried Forward	22	32

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Brought Forward	22	32
Diabetes	1	1
Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	13	18
Heart Disease	42	43
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	4	8
Bronchitis	4	1
Pneumonia	1	6
Other Respiratory Diseases	-	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	3	-
Diarrhoea under two years of age	-	1
Appendicitis	-	-
Other Digestive Diseases	2	3
Nephritis	5	4
Puerperal and Post-Abortion Sepsis.	-	-
Other Maternal Causes	-	-
Premature Birth	1	4
Congenital Malformation - Birth Injuries, Infantile Disease, etc.	1	4
Suicide	-	1
Road Traffic Acc.	4	-
Other Violent Causes	2	1
All other Causes	8	2
Total	<u>113</u>	<u>130</u>
Total both Male and Female.....	243	

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1946  
(Excluding Tuberculosis).

<u>Diseases</u>	Under 1 year		1 to 5		5 to 15		15 to 25 & 25 Upwards		<u>Total</u>
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	3
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Whooping Cough	-	-	2	4	-	2	-	-	9
Measles	-	-	2	-	2	1	-	1	6
Pneumonia	-	-	3	4	3	1	-	-	19
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	11
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2

The District was remarkably free from all forms of infectious disease.

TUBERCULOSIS

The following new cases were notified during the year:

<u>Pulmonary</u>			<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>			<u>All Forms</u>
<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Total</u>
6	7	13	2	3	5	18

The Age Group at notification:-

	<u>0 to 5</u>		<u>5 to 15</u>		<u>15 to 25</u>		<u>25 and Upwards</u>	
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Pulmonary	-	-	-	-	1	4	5	3
Nonpulmonary	-	-	1	2	-	1	1	-



The eighteen new cases of tuberculosis notified during the year is in keeping with the incidence of this disease throughout the country which has not declined in the same way as other infectious diseases. Early diagnosis and treatment of cases are essential for both cure and prevention of infection. Bad housing and overcrowding are contributory factors in the spread of tuberculosis. It is, therefore, important that housing accommodation be found where necessary for the family of a person suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis so that the patient on his return from a sanatorium is able to sleep in a separate room. Now that the supply of new houses has been resumed it will be easier for the Council to follow out their pre-war practice in this respect.

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS

<u>Pulmonary.</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>	
Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
1	2	1	-

The number of cases on the Register, 31st December 1946, was as follows:-

<u>Pulmonary.</u>			<u>Non-Pulmonary.</u>			<u>All Forms.</u>
Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	TOTAL.
24	21	45	22	13	35	80

BIRTH, DEATH, AND INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES FOR THE LAST SIX YEARS.

	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.
Birth Rate (Per 1,000 population).	17	17	20.2	20.1	22	19.8
Death Rate (Per 1,000 population).	13.5	11.5	10.9	12.4	12.7	14.2
Infantile Mortality Rate (Per 1,000 Live Births) (Deaths of infants under one year).	47.6	41.5	21.8	35.5	24	35

FOR COMPARISON, THE BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES OF ENGLAND AND WALES, ETC., ARE GIVEN BELOW.

	England and Wales.	126 C.B.'s and Great Towns.	County of Gloucestershire	North Cotswold R.D.C.
Live Births	19.1	22.2	21.3	19.8
Still Births, (per 1000 population)	0.53	0.67	0.59	0.5
Death Rate (Per 1000 population)	11.5	12.7	11.7	14.2
Infantile Mortality Rate (Deaths of infants under 1 year) (Per 1000 Live Births)	43	46	37	35
Deaths under 2 years of age from Diarrhoea and Enteritis. (Per 1000 Live Births)	4.4	6.2	2.8	3.0

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1946:-

Age at 31/12/46 e.g. born in year	Under 1 year 1946	1 1945	2 1944	3 1943	3 1942	4 1942	5 to 9 1937/41	10 to 14 1932/36	Total Under 15.
Number immunised	{ 0	116	163	166	187	}	{ 1062	997 }	2691
Estimated mid-year population 1946			1560					2560	4120

### Diphtheria Notifications and Deaths in relation to Immunisation.

<u>Notifications</u>			<u>Deaths.</u>		
Age at date of notification	Number of cases notified.	Number of cases included in preceding column in which the child had completed a full course of immunisation.	Age at date of Death	No. of Deaths.	Number of cases included in preceding column in which the child had completed a full course of Immunisation.
4 to 5	1	NIL			
Totals	1	NIL	Totals	NIL	NIL

Only one child contracted diphtheria during the year and this child had not been immunised. The rarity of the disease is a measure of the success of the immunisation campaign and its elimination will come about when a higher proportion of children have been immunised.

No less than 593 children in the country as a whole died from diphtheria in 1945 only 36 of them had been immunised and 30 of these 36 had not received a reinforcing dose subsequent to primary immunisation in infancy. Immunity from artificial immunisation is not maintained indefinitely and it is desirable that a child who has received primary immunisation at the age of about nine months should be given a reinforcing dose at the age of 4 or 5 years. Maximum protection is thus afforded during the early years of school life.

During the year 407 children were immunised for the first time and 103 children were given the boosting dose.

The large number of children treated, brought about considerable improvement in the percentage of immunised children in the District which is now 65% as against 57% for the previous year.

It is estimated that if three out of four children (i.e. 75%) were immunised the disease would disappear and our aim is to get this proportion of children treated. It must be remembered that all children under fifteen are counted in working out the proportion immunised and includes the age group 0 - 1 year in which few children will have been treated.



## GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR HEALTH SERVICES

### LABORATORY FACILITIES.

- Facilities are available at
- 1) Emergency Public Health Laboratory, Oxford.
  - 2) Cheltenham General Hospital.
  - 3) Public Analyst, Gloucester.

### AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(a) Infectious cases. The ambulance is provided by the Delancey Hospital, Cheltenham.

(b) Other cases. The Council maintain an ambulance service which operates throughout the district. There are two ambulances and one sitting case car. The stations are at Stow on the Wold, Moreton in Marsh and Blockley.

The service may be obtained through telephone Moreton in Marsh 159.

In the year 1st April 1946 to 31st March 1947 172 cases were dealt with and 7,982 miles travelled.

### NURSING IN THE HOME

The whole area is covered by the District Nursing Association.

### MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

Blockley	...	Alternate Wednesdays.
Bourton on the Water		2nd and 4th Tuesdays
Chipping Campden	...	2nd Monday.
Nickleton	...	2nd Tuesday
Moreton in Marsh	...	2nd Tuesday
Stow on the Wold	...	1st and 3rd Mondays.
Willesley	...	2nd Thursday

### HOSPITALS

- (a) Voluntary.
- Moreton District Hospital.  
(Maternity, Medical and Surgical)
- Bourton on the Water Cottage Hospital.  
(Medical and Surgical)
- (b) Infectious. The Delancey Isolation Hospital, Cheltenham.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### WATER SUPPLY

The public inquiry ordered by the Minister of Health was held into the application of the Council for consent to borrow £350,000 in order that a piped water supply might be taken to all groups of houses in each of the thirty seven parishes. The Minister has given his approval of the Council's scheme. In the case of three villages, Todenham, Evenlode and Westcote where the need was most urgent the Council were allowed to obtain tenders for laying the water mains and this work was in progress at the end of the year.

Ninetyone samples of water were submitted for analysis during



the year, 81 were taken from the Council's supply and of these 44 samples were taken before treatment and 37 samples after treatment by chlorination. The remaining 10 samples were taken from private supplies.

Works were untaken and chlorination instituted to safeguard the local village supply at Guiting Power.

The following table sets out the position with regard to water supply in the various parishes:-

Parish	Total No. of houses	Number of houses supplied by public mains.		Number of houses • without public supply.
		a. direct into house	b. by stand pipes.	
Adlestrop (3)	62	-	-	62
Aston Subedge(3)	30	-	-	30
Batsford (3)	54	11	-	43
Bledington (1)	105	83	-	22
Blockley (2A)	446	332	66	48
Blockley				
Remainder (2)	177	49	-	128
Bourton-on-the-				
Hill (1)	101	59	7	35
Bourton-on-the-				
Water (1)	515	328	45	142
Broadwell (2)	94	16	45	33
Campden (1)	530	468	-	62
Clapton (4)	28	-	-	28
Condicote (1)	30	22	-	8
Cutsdean (3)	34	-	-	34
Donnington (1)	34	24	-	10
Ebrington (3)	176	12	-	164
Evenlode (4)	62	-	-	62
Great Rissington(2)	91	15	70	6
Guiting Power(2)	116	20	69	27
Icomb (4)	44	-	-	44
Little Rissington				
(3)	46	-	-	46
Longborough (1)	126	52	15	59
Lower Slaughter(3)	73	3	-	70
Maugersbury (3)	37	3	-	34
Nickleton (1)	212	168	6	38
Moreton-in-Marsh				
(1)	482	343	120	19
Naunton (2)	124	-	-	124
Oddington (2)	129	81	29	19
Saintbury (3)	35	1	-	34
Sauncy (3)	27	-	-	27
Stow on the Wold				
(1)	504	400	100	2
Swell (2)	130	71	12	47
Temple Guiting(3)	123	12	5	106
Todenham (4)	76	-	-	76
Upper Slaughter(3)	80	-	-	80
Westcote (4)	55	-	-	55
Weston Subedge (1)	92	58	8	26
Wyck Rissington(3)	43	1	-	42
Willersey (1)	149	140	-	9

1. 12 parishes, 2880 houses with a satisfactory public piped supply.  
(The Council's area water scheme)
2. 7 parishes, 1307 houses with unsatisfactory piped supply.  
(Local Village Supplies)
3. 13 parishes, 820 houses with unsatisfactory private piped supply.
4. 5 parishes, 265 houses with no piped supply.

Total population supplied by public water mains.

	(a) Direct to Houses	(b) By means of Standpipes.	Without Public Supply
Total No. of houses 5,272	2772	597	1903
Population 17100	9036	1946	6118

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

A start was made with the Council's post war schemes in that the necessary Inquiry was held into the Council's application for consent to borrow £68,000 for sewerage and sewage disposal in the five parishes of Aston Subedge, Mickleton, Saintbury, Weston Subedge and Willersey.

Approval for the Scheme which made use of the available disposal works at Honeybourne R.A.F. Station, was obtained. It is hoped that post war difficulties of labour, materials and high prices will not hold up completion of this scheme which is so necessary to alleviate conditions in these five parishes. At the Inquiry the stagnant sewage in the ditches in and around the villages was demonstrated.

Other schemes are also as urgent and conditions are likely to become worse with improvement in water supplies.

The Council's post war programme comprises schemes in the following areas as a first instalment.

- C. Bledington.
- C. Mickleton, Willersey, Saintbury, Aston Subedge & Weston Subedge.
- C. Bourton on the Water, Lower and Upper Slaughter.
- C. Stow on the Wold, Haugersbury, Oddington.
- C. Blockley, Draycott, Aston Magna, Paxford & Ebrington.
- C. Bourton on the Hill.
- C. Condicote.

- A. Scheme already completed
- B. " under construction.
- C. " not yet commenced.



## HOUSING

### Rural Housing Survey

Ministry of Health Circular 64 on Rural Housing implemented the Hobhouse Report and required Rural Authorities to undertake a survey of the fitness of the houses in their district.

The date for completion was April 1947 but owing to difficulties in finding suitable staff to carry out the work, a start could not be made until April 1946. A second inspector was appointed in September 1946 in order to hasten the completion of the Survey.

#### Statement of the Survey at 31st December 1946

No. of houses to be inspected (Under rateable value of £16. p.a.)	No. of houses inspected to 31 Dec 1946.	Classification Categories.			
		1 Satis- factory in all respects.	2 Minor Defects	3 & 4 Major Defects but ap- propriate for re- conditioning	5 Unfit for habita- tion
4,026	1,125	320	144	428	233

30 houses were overcrowded according to the standard laid-down by the Housing Act 1936. In 70 cases two families were found to be sharing a house.

Using the findings of the survey to assess the district we may expect 28% of the houses to be fit in all respects, 13% to have minor defects, 38% to require repair or reconditioning and 21% to be unfit for habitation.

Conditions brought out by the survey show that the unfit houses lack essential amenities such as ventilated food stores sinks, efficient drains, washing accommodation and adequate facilities for preparation and cooking of food.

There is usually no piped water supply; housewives and the aged having to carry water from standpipes or in some cases take water from springs, and brooks and wells subject to contamination.

Dampness is almost invariably present and its prevalence does not mitigate the harm it does to those who live under these conditions since it is the commonest predisposing factor in illhealth.

The cottages have tiny and hopelessly inadequate windows which in many cases cannot be opened. The bad lighting and ventilation is aggravated by excessively low ceilings.

Internally the cottages are badly arranged, depriving the bedrooms of privacy. Staircases are dark, winding and dangerous opening on to draughty landing bedrooms.

Houses condemned before the war but not demolished have had to be reoccupied owing to the acute shortage of accommodation.

Conditions have been made worse by the difficulty in repairing houses for so many years.



It might appear that the Survey has shown an unduly high proportion to be in category 5 but it may well be higher when the standard of fitness recently published by the Sub-Committee of the Central Housing Advisory Committee has the force of law behind it. The Minister has indicated that the standard will be made effective at the earliest practicable moment.

The recommended standard is as follows:-

The dwelling should:-

- (i) be in all respects dry;
- (ii) be in a good state of repair;
- (iii) have each room properly lighted and ventilated;
- (iv) have an adequate supply of wholesome water laid on for all purposes inside the dwelling;
- (v) be provided with efficient and adequate means of supplying hot water for domestic purposes.
- (vi) have an internal or otherwise readily accessible water closet;
- (vii) have a fixed bath preferably in a separate room;
- (viii) be provided with a sink or sinks and with suitable arrangements for the disposal of waste water;
- (ix) be provided with facilities for domestic washing including a copper, preferably in a separate room;
- (x) have a proper drainage system;
- (xi) be provided with adequate points for artificial lighting in each room;
- (xii) be provided with adequate facilities for heating each habitable room;
- (xiii) have satisfactory facilities for preparing and cooking food;
- (xiv) have a well ventilated larder or food store;
- (xv) have a proper provision for the storage of fuel;
- (xvi) have a satisfactory surfaced path to outbuildings and convenient access from a street to the backdoor (application varying as to where the public services are available)

The Sub-Committee's standard of fitness is a target to which the improvement of houses must attain.

#### SQUATTERS

In the Autumn owing to the pressing need for housing accommodation three vacant Army camps were seized by squatters. At Naugersbury 12 families were in occupation; Cinque Foil, Blockley 8 families, and Mickleton 6 families.

All the huts were of the Nissen type and suitable only

for first aid repairs in accordance with paragraph 7 of the M. of H. Circular 20/46.

Water and electric light were turned on, each hut was provided with a cooking range and Elsan closet. As the huts were found to be excessively cold and draughty the ends were felted over and partitions erected to give some measure of privacy.

The standard of accommodation is very low and alternative housing should be found as soon as possible.

REPORT OF CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

1946

Complaints received	140
Informal notices	81
Statutory notices served	5
Nuisances abated	68
Premises disinfected after infectious disease	9
Premises disinfected for other causes	12
Shops visited	52
Bakehouses visited	15
Factory inspections	10
Outworkers premises visited	1
Tents, Vans, and sheds visited	8
Cowshed and dairy inspections	79
Drains inspected	498
Water Samples taken for analysis	78
Total number of visits for all purposes	2,383

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PUBLIC CLEANSING AND SALVAGE COLLECTION

Domestic Refuse Collection.

The collection of household refuse throughout the year has been fairly well maintained in accordance with the prescribed timetable largely owing to good work by the men engaged thereon.

This has been no light task owing to rapid deterioration of old vehicles whose frequent ailments tend to cancel out the advantages which should have arisen from the delivery of a new refuse vehicle in October.

In spite of large areas to cover a varied assortment of containers and war time obstacles, the rate payers in this area have had a more consistent service than have many parts of the country.

The improvement which should be due all round now strife has ceased, will I hope enable us to improve on the service in the common interest of Public Health.

Salvage Collection.

The volume of salvage has fallen off since the end of the war probably owing to slackening of tension and lesser response to appeals. It is difficult to bring home to the public the common benefits to be derived from a Council's sale of salvaged material.

I fear the general view of the matter is, my donation is too small to notice, or the trouble is too great for me, and to think of the Council as some independent body reaping a benefit instead of realising the resultant profit as of help to the community.

An account of Salvage takings for the year follows:-

	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	£.	s.	d.
Mixed paper and cardboard	58	18	1	387	0	10
Rags	1	9	0	14	10	0
Non-Ferrous metal		5	2	3	6	0
Iron	8	9	0	18	8	10
	69	1	3	423	5	8



These figures compare favourably with other rural districts in the county, but are not as good as they should be.

Stringent rationing has a cumulative effect on the output of rags and bones and as quantities decrease, the amount collected are difficult to dispose of to advantage.

The non-ferrous metal return should be higher but when mixed with other refuse it is not economical to engage labour in sorting, costs would swamp receipts of sales.

Paper returns should be better, but great quantities are wasted by admixture with other refuse, also the late Mr. Guy Fawkes, caused a noticeable reduction in the November collection of this material.

The trailer now provided should help to draw public attention to the Council's care for paper salvage, unfortunately the very wet weather we have enjoyed washed off the posters

I attached almost as soon as they were on.

### Refuse Tips

These places are, in areas such as this, necessary evils and a constant source of complaint and worry.

Service tipping has become a problem, which I am approaching Commanding Officers with a view to their more active co-operation in keeping the dumps tidy, or the disposal of their refuse elsewhere.

All these with the exception of Oddington Hill are exposed to casual use and abuse.

If the provision of fence and gate at the Bourton-on-the-Water tip is a success in reducing the abuse, it would be a good idea to make good the wall and provide a gate at Blockley and Eyford. The doubt in my mind is, would gates survive long if not constantly guarded?

Unfortunately, there is an impression abroad that the tips are public property for the use of anyone with rubbish to dispose of especially at times when there is no one in authority about.

### Refuse Tips and Rats

I may misjudge the authority responsible for rat extermination and I realise the great difficulty of effective rat repression in such places but I think these people do not carry out this work at frequent enough intervals.

All refuse tips are potential rat harbours, and form a natural refuge for vermin disturbed in farm buildings and ricks, or driven from hedgerows and ditches by hard weather. Only the complete burning of all refuse will destroy every source of food for vermin in such accumulations. This makes frequent inspection and treatment necessary.

Luckily we are now free of blackout restrictions and spontaneous combustion is helping to destroy a good deal of organic matter at our tips. I make use of this when destroying bad food which cannot be otherwise utilized. In the absence of large quantities of Bitumastic card (once dumped by the U.S.A. forces) there is little smoke to cause a nuisance.

### Closet Accommodation

4 vault closets were replaced by bucket systems in the absence of sewers.

It is to be hoped that this partial remedy will not be needed for many more years. The growth of realisation of the necessity for proper sewage systems points to the disappearance of this mediæval method of disposal of personal waste.



### Military Sanitation.

The disposal of latrine contents from military camps has assumed such small proportions as to be no longer a problem, and no nuisance from such disposal arose during the year.

### Tents, Vans and Sheds.

Three complaints arising from such sources were received during the year. In each case casual farm labour was the cause. Two groups moved on soon after being visited and latrine accommodation was provided in the third case.

Very little trouble is caused by short roadside halts and usually small tribes move on before any pressure can be brought to bear, or much supervision exercised.

Showmen generally, while being van dwellers are tidy and do not leave camping places foul. Usually they tidy up a site, after patrons have spread a generous layer of litter.

### Camping Sites.

Usually these sites are used for holiday occupation and not subject to licencing, but there is a tendency for people to make use of wheeled homes owing to the shortage of other accommodation.

One such dwelling was licenced by the end of the year.

### Cowsheds and Dairies

79 visits were made to Cowsheds and Dairies, these were generally found to be kept in a clean condition.

Many are now out of date and difficult to keep as clean as one could wish.

In spite of special consideration given to application for remodelling of such premises cost of work and labour and material difficulties retard progress being as rapid as one would wish towards a high hygienic standard.

The absence of ample good water supplies are still the great problem for many dairy farmers.

In these days of many officials and forms the Dairy farmers in the area show willing efforts to overcome difficulties in the production of clean milk and in spite of out of date buildings succeed in supplying a vast quantity of clean milk.

When one considers the nature of milk and its great liability to contamination, it must be realised that a large amount of care and work is put into its production.

### School Milk Samples.

31 reports on samples of school milk were received from the School Medical Officer.

11 of these samples failed to reach designated standard.

This percentage 35.5% is high but it must be borne in mind that the bulk of the milk is supplied from undesignated farms for which there is no legal standard, also several samples would be from the same consignment, which makes the adverse percentage high.

Verbal and written warning is given in every case of failure to obtain a high standard.

Milk being a good medium for bacteria increase makes it difficult for investigation always to disclose the source of contamination, and a poor sample is produced sometimes under almost ideal conditions by careful producers. Also the time lag

between production and sampling, and sampling and analysis operates at least not in favour of the producer.

### Food Inspection.

Meat is still issued from Government Depots at Cheltenham and Evesham.

The beef mentioned in the list of unsound foods was imported being Argentine, boned and chilled. Cause of unsoundness was bone taint probably due to chilling rapidly before properly set.

I think there has been some improvement following the Council's protest in reference to meat from one of the Central Slaughterhouses last year.

The possibility of the end of food controls in the future and the resumption of slaughter in private slaughter houses make desirable the consideration of the position which will arise

The condition and situation of the majority of private slaughterhouses is far from ideal from a Public Health point of view.

They are too near dwelling houses and apart from the unpleasantness of such places being among dwellings the removal of waste, and usable offals is difficult to arrange in an economic and hygienic manner. In addition inspection of meat produced is bound to be spasmodic and unsystematic.

Now is the time to consider the advisability of instituting centralized slaughtering locally.

Fish is found unsound usually after delay in rail transit when ice packing has entirely disappeared.

The dried fruits mentioned have deteriorated probably from insufficient drying in the process of preparation. The Sultanas had fermented, and prunes were mouldy.

The mould in question is slight on the outer side only of a consignment could be washed off but in the cases mentioned the growth was too far gone to make salvage possible.

Usually the deterioration of the other foods mentioned arose primarily from damage to containers in transit.

The shortage of strong packing and careful conveyance must be the cause of a lot of waste.

The sugar was contaminated by water and was returned to the refinery for treatment.

Generally speaking the amounts are less than last year and show an improvement in the matters I speak of.

Foods surrendered and destroyed or otherwise disposed of as unfit for human consumption:-

Sausages	39 lbs
Vegetables (Tinned)	56 tins
Soup	17 tins
Preserves	13 tins or jars
Fish	25 tins
Fish (wet)	168 lbs
Milk	123 tins
Fruit (Tinned)	15 tins
Fruit (dried) Prunes & Sultanas	125 lbs
Cheese	47 lbs 10 ozs
Cereals	2 lbs
Bacon	19 lbs
Beef Returned to Evesham for Salvage	317 lbs
Sugar Returned to refinery.	5 cwt
Biscuits Returned to makers.	13 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.



### Ice Cream.

There are 9 premises registered for the sale of icecream one of which is also registered for manufacture.

This number will increase as restrictions decline.

### Fried Fish.

One new premises opened in Stow on the Wold equipped with modern apparatus.

### Rivers and Streams.

3 samples were submitted for analysis taken from the stream flowing through Paxford.

Two were satisfactory, one of these being from the Campden sewage works effluent.

One from near the stone bridge at Paxford was poor.

The contamination was not traced to any particular place.

### Ditches.

Many ditches were inspected and found to be in foul condition. This condition was aggravated by the shortage of labour in war time, fortunately the position has improved owing to the availability of prisoner of war labour and a wholesale clearing of ditches is well in hand.

There is no doubt that fouling of ditches arises largely from the utilising of old surface water drains for septic tank outfalls, cesspit overflows and in some cases as soil sewers.

The extension of water supplies tends to add to the problem. Waste water from baths, sinks etc. is difficult to deal with efficiently in small sewage plants, owing to the high concentration of soapsuds at certain times. There is a far greater chance of a balanced flow as far as chemical composition is concerned where a large number of premises are served.

The only thing that will restore the countryside ditches to their original state, is the adoption of sewers and proper disposal works and rigid control of waste matters.

All other measures are temporary and in the long run expensive.

### Vermin

12 premises were treated for beetles or fleas.

These vermin can be more effectively dealt with by occupiers if they will only be painstaking, for in both instances premises can be reinfested from eggs which are likely to mature in spite of the application of insecticides.

I have used Gammaxane (666) with good effect for beetles and fleas. The only disadvantage is the disagreeable musty smell which will tend to make it unpopular with householders.

This smell is unfortunate as I have found this powder to be more effective than D.D.T.

### Rats and Lice Destruction Act, 1919

24 visits were made to premises from which complaints had been received.

In each case the County Pests Officer was notified.

The County Council is the executive authority for the working of this Act.

I feel that however keen their officers are their area is too large for effective rapid measures to be taken when required and often the time lag between complaint and treatment is too great.

### Public Conveniences

These necessary conveniences are still misused by a small minority of the public, causing discomfort and expense to the ratepayers of the area.

It is difficult to see what amusement can be afforded by wilful damage to a public property.

